

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application, of which claims 1-3 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 2,614,899 to Phillips (hereinafter "**Phillips**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Phillips discloses an oil ring having an upper rail 5, a lower rail 6, each rail having a flat outer surface 22 with a curved surface 25 joining the upper end in Fig. 4, and a curved surface 26 joining the lower end in Fig. 4.

This description appears to describe option (a) in claim 1 of the instant application, which has been deleted. Fig. 3 of **Phillips** shows two sharp corners instead of curved surfaces for the upper and lower ends, but **Phillips** fails to disclose one curved surface and one sharp corner for each rail, as shown in Figs. 2B and 2C of the instant application. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to recite this distinction.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection should be withdrawn. Claims 2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over **Phillips**.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As noted above, **Phillips** fails to disclose the limitations of claim 1, as amended, from which claims 2 and 5 depend.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-3, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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